

Very Short Answer Questions

Q.1. What are prejudices?

Ans. Village people are, in everyone's opinion, supposed to be ignorant and superstitious while city people are supposed to be greedy, lazy and money minded. These opinions create negative impression in a human's subconscious mind and are called prejudices.

Q.2. How do we make stereotype?

Ans. When prejudice develops in its full form, we may well begin to view the person as a stereotype. A person is fixed into a particular type of image.

Short Answer Questions

Q.1. How have Indians strived for equality? Give example.

Ans. When thousands of Indians were struggling to free themselves from the clutches of colonial rule, there were lakhs who were victims of social inequality. They were called Dalits, untouchables and tribals. Further, there were poor and landless farmers who were also being exploited by the landlords.

Q.2. How did Ambedkar and Gandhi strive for equality?

Ans. Before independence, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and Gandhi had raised their voice for abolishing untouchability and promoting social equality. The Dalits organised themselves in order to gain the right to go to the temples. These struggles were so prominent that they thought these to be vital while drafting the Constitution after independence.

Q.3. Who was Dr. Ambedkar? What did he do initially?

Ans. Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar [1891–1956] was born on 14th April 1891. He is considered to be the father of the Indian Constitution and is also known as a great scholar and social worker. As a Dalit leader, he organised Untouchable's Conference at Nagpur in 1918. He fought for the Dalits because he wanted to uplift them, save them from the atrocities that the higher castes were committing upon them. He organised a 'Satyagraha' in December 1927.

Long Answer Questions

Q.1. How is diversity prevalent all over?

Ans. People differ in the way they live, eat and celebrate. Likewise the languages they speak, the clothes they wear and the religion they practice are also diverse. The whole world is thus full of diversity. But this diversity is not accepted always as we feel safe and secure only with people who dress, talk, think and look like us. The saying 'Birds of the same feather flock together' aptly describes this fact. Each one adopts an attitude or forms an individual opinion about the other.

Q.2. How does discrimination take place even on grounds of caste and class?

Ans. Discrimination may even take place on grounds of caste and class. Certain sections are described to be poor just because they belong to a lower caste. Further, class discrimination of rich or poor may lead to prejudice and seclusion of certain community from the political mainstream. People doing menial work are regarded as people with little skills or are even called untouchables. People who are up the ladder regard themselves as superior while those who are down the ladder are regarded as inferior or untouchables. The rigidity of caste system is still prevalent in small cities, towns and villages.

Q.3. How did Dr. Ambedkar strive for upliftment of Dalits?

Ans. Dr B.R. Ambedkar was the first person from their caste to complete his college education and proceed to England to become a lawyer. He made endless efforts to gain entry, for the Dalits, into the temples. Later on in life, he took up Buddhism and converted to Buddhism that treated all men equally. He was elected to the Constituent Assembly from Bengal in November 1946. He became the Chairman of the Drafting Committee in 1947. Later, as Law Minister in the Union Cabinet, he did much for the upliftment of the untouchables. He rightly believed that the Dalits had to come forward and help themselves.

Q.4. How does the Indian Constitution protect social groups?

Ans. To protect India's social groups, the Indian Constitution has given all Indians the following rights:

- i. All Indians are equal before law. No one can be denied justice or illtreated on grounds of caste, community, gender or religion.
- ii. Untouchability has been abolished and its practice is a punishable offence.
- iii. Every Indian is free to live or travel anywhere within the country.
- iv. No child below the age of 14 can be forced to do hazardous work. Child labour is thus banned in India.
- v. Every Indian has the right to follow the religion of his or her choice. India is a secular country. It means that all religions are equal before the government and the law of the land.

- vi. Every community has the right to preserve and promote its own language, script and customs.
- vii. A person can move to the court of law if he or she is denied any of these rights.

HOTS (Higher Order Thinking Skills)

Q.1. How do stereotypes affect human beings?

Ans. Many people do not accept the branded stereotypes and express their displeasure at those people who consider some as dumb, lazy and inferior than others. Likewise, members of certain communities do not send their daughters to good schools for education. They hold poverty and faulty government policies for their inability to send the girls to good schools while boys are given good education simply because they are regarded as bread winners of the family.

Q.2. How does prejudice lead to inequality and discrimination?

Ans. Prejudices or stereotype images often result in inequality and discrimination on the basis of gender, caste, class, religion, language, region, strata, place of birth, etc. At times, people of a certain community may be prevented from having water from the same tap in a village. Likewise, economic status may be a determinant for discrimination. Poor people face discrimination in every field—jobs, schools, offices, hospitals, etc. and this may result in increasing their vulnerability to the fulfilment of basic needs like food, clothing and shelter. Poverty becomes the biggest cause of discrimination.